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COMMUNICATIONS.

MR. VAN BUREN'S VOTE AGAINST THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

The following able paper is from the pen of a Farmer. If we do not greatly mistake the spirit of our fellow citizens, its pure republican sentiments will find a prompt and hearty response in the heart of every friend of civil liberty. We bespeak for it a careful reading by every man who cares for his country.

For the State Journal.

MR. EDITOR: When the bill for bridging the freedom of the Press was first introduced into the Senate of the U. States, it probably caused little or no surprise in any quarter, because a knowledge of the rash and hot temperament and the extreme ultra views of the "Framer of said bill," was coextensive with its introduction. Mr. Calhoun, as every body knew, had but recently, in his mad and fiery contest in support of the Nullification doctrine, done his utmost to sever one of the most essential ligaments in holding together the several States which compose the Republic, usually denominated the United States of North America. In addition to which, as every body knew, he was a slaveholder, and like too many of his co-slaveholders, subject to fits during which reason is wholly obscured by the ebullitions of passion, so often an allusion is made to a period when slavery shall cease to exist in this land of evitable freedom. Knowing the man therefore as every body must have known him, it could not have been matter of surprise that such a Bill should emanate from such a source; and it was probably very generally anticipated that it would receive the support of several of the Southern Senators, who, believing with Gov. McDuffie, that domestic Slavery is the very corner stone of Republican Freedom, would deem it the *ne plus ultra* of true patriotism to demolish at a blow, both the Foundation and superstructure of civil liberty, from an apprehension that if permitted to remain entire, it might perchance jostle this precious corner stone. Certain other Senators had already given abundant proof that a predominant constituent of their mental conformation was of a sort of gunpowder nature, which became instantly ignited by the word "abolition" when uttered by Northern lips. And with these it was expected that during the period of combustion, every consideration of political consistency, national benefit or constitutional right, would be unheeded and recklessly sacrificed to the one phrenzied, soul-absorbing desire to defend an institution peculiar to one section of the Union against the — what? the swords and bayonets, or the legally authorized opposition of another section of the Union? O no, only against the voice of individuals and opinions promulgated by a few presses, having their location in the latter quarter. Loose indeed in the affections of the people, and of doubtful benefit, must be that institution, however ancient, which fears the attacks of its opponents, so long as it is permitted to defend itself against these attacks, with the same weapons and mode of warfare; possessing, as it ever must, at least the small advantage over its assailants of being entrenched around by the authority of prescription; and dastardly must be that spirit which in such a contest should seek, or accept of other weapons for its defence, but those wielded by its antagonist. But this is digressing.

Though it was expected by every body that a few of the Senators from the South would from causes above explained, support the bill in question, it was not expected by every body that so large a portion of them could by any possibility chance to belong to that class of moral beings, who habitually allow themselves to become disordered by excitement and passion from rival or utterly inadequate causes; and what is far worse, to allow themselves to decide upon measures of the deepest concern to a whole nation, and establish principles which must from their very nature, effect the weal or woe of countless generations, while self-conscious, as past all doubt they must be, that they are in a greater or less degree under the influence of excited feelings. If the plea of acting under the influence of strong excitement, must be allowed in extenuation of the moral turpitude of the act of voting for the "censorship bill," on the same principle that drunkenness was some years ago a standing plea in mitigation of punishment for every crime committed under its influence, this very apology is precisely the reason why such men should never be trusted in high public offices. However gifted with all the mental requisites for the formation of statesmen, however deeply versed in the practical details of governmental affairs, however pure their morals in the social relations of life, yet this most unhappy and most dangerous infirmity of being subject to high and protracted mental excitement, and what must be characterized by a stronger name than infirmity, the practice of deciding upon matters of the highest import, while conscious that the paroxysm is upon them, ought to be considered as an absolute disqualification for all offices involving legislative, administrative, or judicial responsibility.

If it was matter of surprise that so large a portion of the Southern Senators should tender upon the altar of their unholy passions, that most indispensable ingredient of genuine Democracy and true Liberty—the freedom of the Press, what was the amazement, almost the dismay, of every American citizen throughout the Union, in whose breast the love of country and of freedom reigned paramount, when the stunning

blow was proclaimed that Senators, and a Vice President, from non-slaveholding states, had recorded their votes in favor of a bill expressly creating a censor of the press in every town, village and hamlet of our widely extended country! In a country whose constitution explicitly declares, that "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of the press." Were they too so drunk with excitement that they knew not what they did? Not they, it was a cold and deliberate thrust at the vitals of their country's freedom. As it will not be pretended that they were urged on to the desperate act by any irresistible momentary impulse, the conclusion is inevitable that they were led to its perpetration by some object becoming ahead, some expectation or hope—(may it prove delusive) of reward, of self-aggrandizement. There is no fear of doing injustice by surmizing too dark a motive. So detestable an act must have had a detestable motive. It is presumed that there is not an individual in the four and twenty states of this Union who would venture to incur universal derision, by insisting that the bill in question might possibly have been supported by those Northern Senators and Vice President, from an honest conviction that its provisions were both constitutional and such as would promote the welfare of the country. The supposition is ridiculous. It was a designing, though open, an insidious stab, aimed by cool heads and still colder hearts—hearts which had ceased to pulsate at the name of country and of freedom. It had a motive—let hell analyze it.

This most wicked attempt to strangle freedom in its infancy, should fix upon them, and it will fix upon them the mark of Cain, until death shall stay their wanderings and hide them in the grave; and the mere act of attempting to impede the descent to the obscurity and harmless condition of private life, of these traitors to the dearest rights of man, will be good and sufficient cause for fastening upon men the stigma of political hypocrisy, of sinister designs, or imbecile sycophancy; for a thief might make pretensions to honesty, a convicted felon to be the respecter of human rights, with as much consistency, as that man can claim to be a friend to the United States of North America, or her Republican institutions, who shall hereafter aid directly or indirectly in upholding the freedom of the press. Had the almost immaculate Washington been living, and recorded his vote in favor of this bill, it would have cancelled his great services to the land which gave him birth and to mankind at large; changed the paternal epithet by which we love to distinguish him, into that of enemy of his country, and indelibly fixed upon his great name a stain and a reproach which the tomb itself would have failed to obliterate. A stickler for the Supremacy of the Laws and of the CONSTITUTION.

For the State Journal.

OUR CAUSE, No. 1.

The general inactivity which seems to prevail in the ranks of the opponents of the present administration, and friends of Harrison and Granger, is in truth, a matter of astonishment.

With the greatest inducements to activity, vigilance and energy, they have resigned themselves to indifference and utter supineness. And it is most humiliating to see the pretended friends of good order, sound principles and republican institutions, uninterested in that which most deeply concerns them, and content to see their dearest rights and privileges made the sport of demagogues and corrupt and unprincipled office holders. No efforts are made to save themselves, or effect a triumph over their indefatigable opponents. Petty dissensions among themselves, and foolish differences on points of no material importance to either, are suffered to engross the little attention they deign to bestow upon this all important subject. The office holders on the contrary, are unremitting in their efforts to procure a triumph at the coming election. The utmost harmony prevails—union, concert of action, and irrepressible energy exists—personal prejudices are entirely disregarded, and private animosities are merged into one general desire for the good of the party. No efforts, honorable or dishonorable, are spared to swell their ranks, disseminate their false and pernicious doctrines, and gull the "sovereign people." They profess the utmost zeal in the cause of Democracy—their rallying word—shout, "Down with aristocracy and monopolies!"—lash with unsparring severity every thing which savors of federalism, and are themselves, if we take them at their word—the most humble, unworthy and devoted servants of the People!

"Alas that in unity and faith,
There should be found such false dissembling
guile."

To those who are content to believe these hollow professions, and to those honest many who are not aware that the sway of King *Hunbury* is most potent and tyrannical—this is all-sufficient. They bide their bidding, and follow the thorny path pointed out for them—secure in their ignorance, and satisfied, complacent, and happy, though the servants of slaves, and bound down by the worst of shackles. O, the wonderful charm of that word, *Democracy*! Though those who raise the cry are the deadliest foes to the very principles they profess and the veriest knaves and tyrants at heart, yet their followers, by the magic of this simple word, are "led as tenderly by the nose as asses are." Honesty, integrity and moral worth, are no longer qualifications for office; the simple question is, "Is he a Democrat?" Ask the meaning

of these wonderful syllables, and nine out of the ten will inform you that it is a cabalistic word, the definition of which is unknown!

But this blind obedience to the dictates of a few self-interested and ambitious leaders, though a prominent characteristic of the *Office-holder's party*, cannot long continue.

I beg the courteous reader's pardon for wandering from the point where I commenced. My object was simply to remark upon the stupid apathy prevalent in the Harrison ranks, but have been led unwittingly to form a contrast between their own criminal negligence, and the industry of their opponents. So long as we regard the contest for political freedom and principle as a contest for "measures, not men," we are bound to be assiduous, persevering and determined in our honest endeavors—to bring forward worthy and consistent men for office, and render them our hearty support. "United we stand, divided we fall." I am no advocate for party servility, or for a resort to tricks and knavery, to accomplish any end, however commendable and desirable. A straight forward, open and manly course is always the best.

A braggadocio and swaggerer is, in any place, the most contemptible of all characters—generally uniting in himself the qualities of cowardice, dishonesty and foolishness. I am not disposed to name exceptions to this "general rule" those *office holders* and *office seekers* (candidates for the Assembly, Clerkship, perhaps, who boast with much gusto, that the Tories, at the September election, will elect their "State ticket by from five to ten thousand majority"!!

"Of all earthly things,
I hate a man whose words outstep his blows."

In my next, I have a word for the *freedom-lovers*.
PROTEUS.

For the State Journal.

It will be recollected by the readers of the North Star, that some time since, over my present signature, I submitted a few questions through the medium of that paper, asking for information why and wherefore the party names and distinctions of former times were revived with an evident design to make them bear upon the question then lately presented before the antismasonry of this State, which question was, as I understood it, whether we should adhere to our original principles, or break up and unite with another party; and it will be also recollected that the editor of the Star devoted two or three columns of his paper to this subject; but as his answers appeared to me not exactly to the point, I took the liberty of making a few farther inquiries, believing my object would not be misunderstood, which was simply to place the subject in such a light that the honesty and consistency of the antismasons, with whom I had so long and heartily acted, might be vindicated from those foul slanders that have been so lavishly heaped upon us by the mass of presses and their satellites. But the captious manner in which that article was treated, and learning about the same time that several communications that had been forwarded for publication in the Star for the same purpose had been rejected, relieved me from all doubt as to the course the editor of that paper had determined to pursue. These considerations, Mr. Editor, have induced me to offer a few remarks, through the medium of your paper, upon the course certain of our professed friends have been pursuing for some time past, with an evident design to create discord, and division in our ranks. And first, as to the editor of the Star, notwithstanding the tone of his paper has strongly indicated a design to transfer its influence to the Jackson party, notwithstanding it was known to many that Mr. Eaton attended a Jackson caucus and endeavored to procure the election of a representative in his own town last fall pledged to that party, notwithstanding it was very publicly stated by the Jackson men about Danville village that Mr. Eaton would be with them in future, that the only thing that kept him back last fall was his obligation to Governor Palmer, his friends hereabouts have been slow in believing that his course was the effect of a dereliction of principle; but we have been more inclined to believe that it is the result of some indirect influence of the wily foe with which we have been contending that has been brought to bear on his mind by awakening his former political prejudices and operating on his vanity, so as to make him lose sight of the principles for which we have so long and successfully contended, and thereby gain by stratagem what they had despaired of gaining by open warfare—I mean the destruction of the antismasonic party. We have been led to these conclusions by perusing articles occasionally published in the Star, commendatory of his course, purporting to be letters from former political friends, or emanating from some high place of power. These efforts, it seems, succeeded much better than did those of Sanballat and Tobiah with Nehemiah. He never once listened to their offers of help, if he would come down and build in the plain. The ardor with which Mr. Eaton has engaged in his new enterprise seems to have made him forget that when the antismasonic party was organized in this State, that Vermont was four-fifths in favor of Mr. Adams's re-election, yet he cannot be ignorant of the fact that the Jackson presses have been tearing ever since with arguments to convince us that their party inherited all the genuine democracy in the nation; that our leading men and our press were all federal, that whoever refused to bow the knee to the Hero would be consigned to a political

purgatory worse than that which befel the Federalists of old. Now these raw-headed and bloody-bone stories have hitherto had but little influence in deterring antismasons from contending for the supremacy of the laws, and equal rights, especially when we were assured from good authority by those who had personal knowledge of what they related, that comparatively few of the democrats of the old school were found in the Jackson ranks, while many prominent federalists were there. Among the number were two former Governors; and besides, when we come to see those pure, disinterested democrats ready to unite with those odious whigs for the avowed object of breaking down antismasonry; we have not been much inclined to commit our cause to their hands for safe keeping. For one I believe that the antismasons were based on as pure principles as ever actuated any body of men since the days of the Revolution; principles broad enough to stand on without leaning for support to any other party, and I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that most of those in this quarter who have been actuated by honest motives, feel not a little mortified at the course Mr. Eaton has taken, to think a man of his intelligence, should undertake—to frighten people into his project by the use of those opprobrious epithets that have become stale. Many of which are as inapplicable to the question at issue as the customs before the flood, and as unmeaning to most of the younger portion of the freemen as the calendars of heathen mythology; still however, I would not so far desert my pupilage or loose sight of that veneration, which virtuous age and experience are entitled to; that if Mr. E. should condescend to let us know how he reconciles his present course with his past, or by what kind of magic he discovered at this late hour of the day, that the best and surest way to put down antismasonry is to support masons. This or any other information that shall tend to vindicate the honor of antismasonry, will be well received by one, at least of his subscribers.
A YOUNG CALEDONIAN.

For the State Journal.

REMARKS UPON THE STATE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION. N. 1.

The following remarks were not suggested from ignorance of the labors already appropriated to the reform of our hitherto, inadequate system of physical and classical education, nor from an ungenerous depreciation of the value of those contributions; but from a consciousness that they have, almost entirely, failed to meet the expectation of the contributors. An inquiry, therefore, into the causes of failure, can scarcely prove uninteresting to the friends of humanity. Surprise is not among the emotions produced by the tardiness of reform. Fanaticism, alone, could anticipate a success of this project, which has ever been denied to moral and literary enterprise, when directed against human prejudices, superstitions and long-confirmed habits of reflection. And yet I do believe the subject susceptible of a mode of presentation more congenial with the capacity by which it must be appreciated, than it has hitherto been. Success can only be expected from a presentation of the subject, so transparent, so palpable as not to be liable to misapprehension by the commonest capacity, or the predominance of constitutional indolence over the enterprise of learning and fatigue of thinking, will render our best attempts abortive. Those who dream of immediate and unimpeded reform must suffer the annoyance of a wakeful recognition of inevitable disappointment.

To what project of reformation, which threatens conflict with settled prejudices, can even enthusiasm, promise success after the demonstration of dogmatism displayed in an inflexible resistance to the ameliorating suggestions of the christian religion, as inculcated in the gospels of the New Testament?

If doctrines palpably admissible of logical certainty, enforced by miracles, and demonstrated by experience, have but partially succeeded in an important appeal of more than 1800 years, who will be surprised at meeting impediments to the success of principles less readily recognized as the emanation or beneficence of heaven.

The greatest impediment to the propagation of learning, is that its advantages can be appreciated, only, by those who have already acquired it; hence the almost universal difficulty of rendering it an object of interest with the illiterate.

The great majority of every community being incompetent to judge of the advantages of adequate instruction, it is, therefore, impracticable to give to literature a character of usefulness, or to render it a subject of general interest.

It is true that a kind of education, scarcely more than nominal, is considered rather convenient than essential, by the great mass of our population, who are, too generally, of opinion that appropriations for education, beyond that which enables one to read an english translation of the bible; to compute interest and cast up accounts, is altogether an unjudicious expenditure.

On the other hand there are those whose pride is flattered by an appropriation of the name of learning, who compute it by the expense of its acquisition, and by whom it is appreciated, merely, as an epithet of invidious distinction.

It is not one of the seven wonders of the world, that mankind, in general, shall have acquired a prejudice or contempt of learning as little as it has seemed to be adapted to the improvement of the appreciable interests of society.

A course of public instruction, whatever it may have contemplated, has been, scarcely, competent to enable the student

to ape the rules of languages entirely unadapted to the propagation of modern science, or to repeat a few technical jaw-breakers, as irreducible to any common purposes of utility, as the theory of perpetual motion or statistical lunar geography.

The only commendable object of education must be the improvement of those circumstances upon which human happiness inevitably depends; otherwise its introduction is a base fraud upon community; and while it is found that unsophisticated common sense is more than equivalent, in all useful enterprise, to the fripperies of technicality, those who are conscious of possessing it, will not be anxious to obtain the futile substitution of unmeaning phraseology. The grand desideratum, therefore, is to modify the mode of instruction so that utility may be commensurate with its progress, and the diploma of the classical or professional graduate become ample security for public patronage, and a sufficient guarantee that it is not unworthily appropriated.

A difficulty, however, exists in the consideration that memory and genius are not unfrequently intellectual antipodes, so that scholarship being computed by the facility of recitation, the blockhead too frequently appropriates the available resources of the doating guardian, which are finally exhausted in rendering more conspicuous constitutional imbecility.

Whilst we indulge the gratifying reflection that our country has produced, within the short period of its political existence, many specimens of enviable literary acquirements, its arid, notwithstanding must be somewhat abated, from an obtrusion of the unwelcome suggestion that some of the fairest of those specimens were the produce of unschooled genius or of foreign seminaries; leaving, at best, but a moderate balance to the credit of our domestic institutions.

However justly commendatory of foreign advantages the foregoing acknowledgment may appear, yet it involves no admission of the comparative superiority of their principles of instruction, they having been hitherto, no less censurable than our own.

That their literary institutions possess a character, and offer advantages superior to ours, is a proposition which may not be controverted. These however depend exclusively upon extrinsic circumstances.

The prodigality with which governments and individuals have supplied the physical means of instruction, in connection with the indispensable requirement of protracted application, has given to foreign academies an equitable claim to superiority over corresponding ones of our country.

Although years and perhaps centuries may elapse before the state of one country shall afford an opportunity for a fair competition with European public or private munificence, yet with the characteristic enterprise of our citizens occasional instances of successful accumulation must inevitably occur, and with the seductive example of the founder of Girard College, beckoning to a participation of semidivine honors, we may reasonably hope that emulation will keep its vigils until the warmest wishes of the friends of literature shall be fully realized.

An ability exists in the government of the United States equivalent to the accomplishment of the most magnificent objects, and being administered in consonance with the highest good of its citizens, it speeds to an eminence of political and literary character, equally, the envy and reproach of monarchs.

It is time, therefore, that resources ample as ours should be more efficiently appropriated in the production of that intellectual advancement which alone promises security, happiness, and honor to the nation.
CINCINNATUS.

For the State Journal.

REPORT

Of the Postmortem examination of the body of MISS BENTON.

As much excitement has been produced by the sudden death of Miss Philinda E. Benton, of Braintree, who died in this town a few weeks since, while under the medical treatment of the Rev. Jehiel Smith, and many misrepresentations having been made, it becomes our duty to the public to give a statement of the facts of the case, as they were presented at the post mortem examination of the body. Miss Benton being indisposed, placed herself under the care of the Rev. Dr. Smith on the 27th day of May last, and came with him from Braintree to this place, that he might himself administer his medicine; they arrived on Saturday afternoon. A course of medicine was administered that evening, consisting of Lobelia emetic, Vapor Bath, and Cayenne pepper. After the operation of the emetic she passed the night in quietness. Sunday morning she sat at table with the family, and in the course of the day walked in the garden, and wrote a letter to her friends upon the state of her health, which she declared to be better than when she left home. Sunday evening another emetic was administered followed by the Vapor Bath and the composition medicine. The night was passed in great distress to the patient, being afflicted with frequent vomiting, faintness, and convulsions, which lasted the whole night. In the morning, the Rev. Doctor, fearing the result, despatched a messenger for the Rev. Dr. Wright of the Botanic Infirmary at Montpelier. Mr. Wright arrived about twelve o'clock on Monday; the above symptoms continued without abatement till near twelve o'clock at night, when they terminated in her death. On Tuesday, her remains were removed to Braintree by her friends, a distance of eighteen miles. Pre-

vions to their leaving this place, Mr. Smith obtained consent of the parents of the deceased, to make an examination of the body, and for that purpose Mr. Smith and Mr. Wright and students, accompanied them to Braintree. But from the sudden termination of her life, there having been three or four cases that had suddenly proved fatal in their vicinity within a few weeks, under the Thomsonian treatment, the citizens of this town were not satisfied that an examination and report of the case should be made by those gentlemen only who profess an entire ignorance of the internal structure of the human body, and also of its healthy or diseased appearance, therefore requested the physicians of this town to go to Braintree and witness the examination. When we arrived at that place, Dr. Smith politely invited Dr. Burnham of Barre and Dr. Bradford of Randolph, to make the dissection, and it is but justice to say that he appeared ready to afford every facility to a thorough examination, and willing to answer any question relating to the case. The examination was made thirty hours after death. On removing the cloth the neck, neck and soft parts of the ears presented a dark, or livid color. Several livid or yellowish spots were scattered over the extremities. The livid color of the skin that appeared in this case, is common in all sudden deaths. The spots on the extremities, resembling small bruises, frequently occur when the system is under the influence of powerful excitants, often in convulsions, and is always seen upon some persons after taking an emetic, from the violent contractions of the muscles which they induce. On opening the body, the heart appeared perfectly healthy, and of a natural size; the lungs somewhat darker than usual from their containing a large quantity of blood in their veins; the windpipe and all its numerous divisions down to the size of a common knitting needle were filled with their composition powders, composed of cayenne pepper, valerian, and bayberry bark, otherwise they appeared healthy. It was supposed that this composition was introduced into the lungs during the last hours of her life, from the effect of the Lobelia, which some of the physicians present had witnessed. It was thought that it might have so destroyed the sensibility of the parts attached to the windpipe that liquid substances might have readily passed into the lungs without producing the violent irritation which is usually felt, when they are swallowed the "wrong way," as it is commonly called. The external appearance of the stomach, bowels, and the membranes connecting them indicated a high degree of excitement. The blood vessels were enlarged, and rather more florid than natural. The stomach and bowels contained a large quantity of the same composition as was found in the ear tubes of the lungs. The internal surface of the stomach was of a reddish color, being of a deeper hue in some parts than others; several small patches of a deep red were scattered over the surface, but more numerous towards the right extremity. The bowels were in a similar state, but less tinged with red. This red appearance was the consequence of recent inflammatory action which we supposed to have been produced by the use of the Thomsonian medicine. Of this we think there can be no doubt when it is known that Miss Benton was able to work at her trade (being a tailoress) and walk about the village till the time of her starting for Barre with Mr. Smith.

The glandular system was found healthy, except a small gland in the lower part of the bowels, which was slightly enlarged, and probably had been so for a long time, and might have remained in that state and even increased to a very large size, without producing much disturbance of the system for many years. From all these facts we could come to no other conclusion than that the immediate cause of the death of this young lady, was the ignorant and unskilful administration of the Thomsonian medicine, particularly the article of Lobelia.

WALTER BURNHAM, M. D.
N. W. PERRY, M. D.
S. CHAMBERLAIN, M. D.
Barre, 24th June, 1836.

For the State Journal.

HINTS FOR HONEST MEN.

MR. EDITOR,—I wish, though you, to address the freemen of Vermont, not because I suppose they will take my *ipse dixit* for demonstration, but I wish to present a few considerations to them, and leave them to judge for themselves, upon which side they will take their stand in the approaching political canvass. I shall address myself more particularly to those who have been distinguished as antismasons—to those who are cordial in the support of all those principles which are based upon the same foundation with antismasonry.

We have various candidates before us, (all professing to be antismasonic) who may be divided into three distinct classes. 1. Those who have found by repeated trials, that the people will raise no others to power, and now for the first time, inscribe "Antismasonry" upon an obscure corner of their banner, with no other evidence that they have any more antismasonry in their hearts than is necessary to suit their purposes, than is evinced by the fact that they have opposed antismasonry from the beginning, denouncing its friends as ambitious and unprincipled office seekers, inconsistent if they supported masons, proscriptive if they did not; acting without any fixed principles; intent only on self-aggrandizement. But alas! how fallible is human judgment! They have just made the discovery that there is not, after all, anything so very anti-republican in antismasonry. These very men were among the most ac-